

# Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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## Meeting Minutes May 23, 2011

### Attendance:

| Members Present:    | Members Absent: | Associate Members Present: |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Susan Austin        | Amy Axel        |                            |
| Niki Biggs          | Bob Coen        |                            |
| Helene Dubay        | Keith England   |                            |
| Reverend Ellison    | Steve Sopol     |                            |
| Councilman Guthrie  | Marc Weinstein  |                            |
| Kathy Halliday      |                 |                            |
| Laurie Kwiedorowicz |                 |                            |
| Mike Mathias        |                 |                            |
| Ben Mayforth        |                 |                            |
| Tracy Moore         |                 |                            |
| Andrea Wiley        |                 |                            |

- I. Vice Chair Reverend Alvin Ellison called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.
- II. Introductions: Members of the Commission and visitors introduced themselves.
- III. Minutes: The minutes of the April 25, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
- IV. Committee Reports:
  - A. Membership:
    1. Marc Weinstein and Reverend Ellison were approved by the County Executive and the County Council as the Commission Chair and Vice Chair respectively.
    2. The Membership Committee is interviewing applicants for the "Student Representative" position. The Committee will present their recommendation to the Commission for approval at the June 27, 2011 meeting.
  - B. Accessibility Committee:
    1. Fair Housing Services: No new information.
    2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.

3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests for waiver have been received.
  4. Ramps Program: Habitat for Humanity is erecting two ramps and installing a chair lift in May. Sharon will forward additional information as it is available.
  5. Operation Access:
    - Sgt. Wilkinson reported that the Sheriff's Office will conduct another check of accessible (handicapped) placards and plates with personnel from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). More information to follow.
    - Reverend Ellison and members discussed the pros and cons of raising the fine for illegal parking in accessible parking spaces.
    - Councilman Guthrie brought up programs which utilize volunteers authorized to ticket vehicles which are illegally parked.
- C. Education Committee: Helene Dubay reported that:
1. The Expo for Transitioning Youth will be held on **Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street, Bel Air.** Please note that this is a new date and location.
  2. The planning committee is developing topics for workshops and speakers.
  3. Ben Mayforth will be added to the Expo Planning Committee email list to provide feedback on the plans.
  4. The next meeting of the Expo Planning Committee will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Web page: No new information.
  2. Legislative Committee: Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz distributed a review of disability-related legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor. The review is attached.
  3. Voice of the Disability Community:
    - Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: no new information.
    - Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: cancelled for summer 2011.
    - Jurisdictional Planning Group: The group will meet on Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library. Joanne

Knapp and Elizabeth Webster of the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security will discuss a project to assess what functional needs support services exist and what gaps remain to be addressed in Baltimore City, City of Annapolis, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties.

E. Employment Committee: Niki Biggs reported that:

1. The annual Employment Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs. Nominations will be available in late summer and will be due on September 7, 2011. The committee will review the nominations on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center.
2. The Committee is sponsoring a free training on Thursday, May 26, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, at the Aberdeen Workforce Center, 34 North Philadelphia Blvd., 3rd Floor, Aberdeen. The training is designed for job developers and other staff of service provider agencies who work with jobseekers with disabilities. The training will focus on the new Maryland Workforce Exchange, an online jobseeker/workforce services system specifically developed for jobseekers, students, case managers, employers, training providers, workforce professionals, and others seeking benefits and services. The training is full.
3. The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Aberdeen.

F. Transportation Committee:

1. Sharon Grzanka reported that the Harford Transit Link Night at the Western Ho-Down Dance on April 15, 2011 at the McFaul Center was very successful. Attendees had the opportunity to meet Jim Ports, Harford Transit Administrator; Cheryl Gable; and a bus driver. As a result of this outreach, requests were received for transportation to and from the May 20, 2011 dance.
2. The committee discussed the ongoing issue of Alliance/Chimes contracted employment for persons with disabilities on the Aberdeen Proving Ground and

- transportation to those jobs. The committee is looking into the scope of the problem.
3. The Department of Community Services is planning a webinar of the “Train the Trainer” program for representatives of service provider agencies, which will be taped and posted online.
  4. The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Friday, June 10, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School”.
- V. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon circulated the program from the World of Possibilities Expo which was held on May 6, 2011 at the Timonium Fairgrounds.
- VI. Old Business:
- A. 2011 Art without Boundaries Exhibit, Student Gallery, Joppa Hall, Harford Community College. Artists with and without disabilities who would like to exhibit are asked to contact Natalie Weeks, Harford County Cultural Arts Board at 410-638-3527.
  - B. Autism and Related Disorders Expo, Saturday, April 30, 2011. This was successful event at APG. Also, the Local Management Board sponsored an Autism Roundtable Discussion, featuring a speaker from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health on their EARLI (Early Autism Longitudinal Investigation) study. Sharon distributed materials from the roundtable discussion.
  - C. Commission Picnic will be held on Monday, September 26, 2011 in lieu of the regular Commission meeting on that date. Proposed location is Flying Point Park in Edgewood. Sharon will submit an application to use a pavilion. Susan Austin will coordinate Commission member donations to the menu.
- VII. New Business: There was none.
- VIII. Public Comment and Announcements:
- A. Jessica Leone of the IMAGE Center announced upcoming IL Intent sessions for youth with disabilities in Baltimore County in June and in Harford County on June 11, 2011 at the Silver Spring Mining Company in Bel Air. For more information, contact the IMAGE Center at 410-982-6311, [www.imagemd.org](http://www.imagemd.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theimagecenter](http://www.facebook.com/theimagecenter) .

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

2011 Legislative Review  
As of 23 May 11<sup>1</sup>

HB 58/ SB 202: Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission-extension of termination date. Proposes to extend the date of termination from 30 September 2011 to 30 September 2016. Signed into law.

HB 104: Higher Education-Community Colleges; Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals. Amends the current law to allow residents, who left the workforce due to a total and permanent disability, to an exemption from tuition if they are taking 6-12 credits a semester. The individuals must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program designed to lead them to employment. Signed into law.

HB 437: Real Property- Sales of New Homes and Minimum Visitability Features. This proposal requires developers of new home subdivisions, with 11 homes or more, and 3 or more model homes, to make one of those model homes available with minimum visitability features as dictated by the proposal. Signed into law.

HB 452/ SB 702: Health Insurance - Coverage of Hearing Aids. Requires an insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or health maintenance organization that provides coverage for hearing aids to an insured or enrolled individual who is not a minor child and that places a dollar limit on the hearing aid benefit, to allow the individual to choose a hearing aid that is priced higher than the benefit payable under the policy or contract and pay the difference between the price of the hearing aid and the dollar limit on the benefit; etc. Signed into law.

HB 621: Fire Safety- High Rise Buildings- Mobility Impaired Individuals. This proposal (failed last year) requires a high-rise owner to provide reasonable written notice to mobility-impaired individuals regarding their right to request a unit on the first five floors if one becomes available. Signed into law.

HB 840: Children, Youth and Families- Services to Children with Special Needs. This proposal changes the state policy to add more emphasis on locally managed care through core service agencies. The proposal modifies the existing policy to provide access to necessary services that are the least restrictive and appropriate, in the most effective environment possible. Appears to be an interagency approach to family-driven, home and community based continuum of care. Signed into law.

HB 849: Public Safety Smoke Detectors and Smoke Alarms. This proposal dictates that people can only sell or install alarms or detectors for individuals with

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<sup>1</sup> Note that proposals showing no activity since the first week of April 2011 have been removed from this report.

hearing impairments in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code. Signed into law.

SB 12/ HB 1223: Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force-Reconstitution. Re-establishes the task force, prohibits members from receiving compensation (but not reimbursement), and requires the task force to make findings and recommendations regarding the minimum sound levels and sound characteristics to be required for all new vehicles sold and registered in the state. This proposal might meet resistance from vehicle manufacturers and dealers who may be unable to comply with the recommendations or might not want to fund further add-ons to their vehicles. Signed into law.

SB 167/ HB 470: Public Institutions of Higher Education - Tuition Rates – Exemptions. Extends the period within which an honorably discharged veteran must present evidence to qualify for a resident tuition rate; establishing that specified individuals, including undocumented immigrants, shall be exempt from paying the out-of-state tuition rate at public institutions of higher education under specified circumstances; requiring specified individuals to provide documentation regarding Maryland income tax withholding; etc. Both proposals have passed in the House and Senate.

SB 188: Recreational Fishing Licenses-Exemption for Disabled Armed Forces Members. Service members, with service-connected disabilities, may fish in Maryland without obtaining a license or applicable stamp. The only requirement is that service members possess a valid military ID. Signed into law.

SB 489/ HB 38: Nonpublic Schools That Participate in State Programs - Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation – Policies. Requires nonpublic schools that accept State funds to adopt by March 31, 2012, a policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, and intimidation; requires the policy to include specified provisions; encourages nonpublic schools to develop the policy in consultation with specified groups; encourages nonpublic schools to publicize the policy in a specified manner; provides specified employees who report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation are not civilly liable under specified circumstances; etc. Signed into law.

SB 682/ HB 793: Behavioral Health - Veterans - Coordination and Provision of Services. Reenacts specified provisions of law that were abrogated as of May 31, 2011, to provide for the continuance of the coordination of specified behavioral health services for specified veterans; requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the United States Department of Veterans

Affairs, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland National Guard, and the Maryland Defense Force, to provide behavioral health services coordination for specified veterans, subject to specified limitations; etc. Signed into law.

SB 763: Hunting Licenses: Exemption for Disabled Armed Forces Members. This proposal expands the existing exemptions for hunting without a license, on private property, to service members with disabilities, as long as those individuals are carrying valid military identification. Signed into law.

SB 830: Extending the Date for Tax Credits for Employment of Qualifying Individuals with Disabilities. This proposal extends the date for taking qualifying tax credits for an additional year (2012 or 2015), depending on the state law. Signed into law.

SB 994: Sales and Use Tax - Alcoholic Beverages. Increases the rate of the sales and use tax imposed on the sale of an alcoholic beverage from 6% to 7% for fiscal year 2012, to 8% for fiscal year 2013, and to 9% for each fiscal year thereafter; requiring the Comptroller to distribute the revenue from the rate increase to the General Fund of the State; etc. Note that the status of this bill is getting a lot of publicity from special interest groups and the media, but it is not identical to the Lorraine Sheehan Health and Community Services Act of 2011. Signed into law.

This document is available in alternative format:  
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